

I oppose the FCC's proposed plans to award every U.S. television broadcaster a huge historic giveaway of the digital spectrum.

Under the proposal advanced by your Media Bureau, each TV station would be given increased market power by permitting them to simultaneously broadcast six (or more) channels. Cable companies would be required to provide the public access to all these new channels, owned by companies such as General Electric, Disney, Viacom, Sinclair and News Corp. Such a plan would greatly increase the power of these media conglomerates. Moreover, you and your Commission have failed so far to clarify how these broadcasters should serve the "public interest" in the digital age. Your support of such a give-way in the absence of a policy that protects the public is an abrogation of your responsibility as Chairman of the FCC.

It is time that the Commission places the public's interests before those of the broadcasting industry. Broadcasters should be denied their request for multiple channel distribution on cable. (Docket #s98-120, 99-360).

Sincerely,

Faith Evans

cc:

Rep. Nita Lowey

Sen. Hilary Clinton

Take Action!

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What's At Stake:

Very few rules remain in place to hold a broadcaster to even-handed service of the public. The government's policies have encouraged media concentration and empowered media conglomerates, which return the favor by trying to sway public opinion towards candidates that are more amenable to their political and business agenda.

Sinclair's action should be a wake-up call for Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell. Powell has the power to tell broadcasters that misuse of our public airwaves comes at a cost. He has the power to hold Big Media companies to the notion that -- in the words of the Supreme Court -- it is the "right of the viewers and listeners, not the right of the broadcasters, which is paramount." But Powell's actions over the last four years tell a different story: about a media regulator who wants his lasting legacy to be the concentration of American media into the hands of a few corporations.

. . . Read the full story at MediaChannel.org

Campaign Expiration Date:

December 1, 2004

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